

House Resolution 907

By: Representatives Brooks of the 63rd, Taylor of the 55th, Mangham of the 94th, Smyre of the 132nd, Dawkins-Haigler of the 93rd, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Mr. John Hope Franklin; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia and this country mourns the loss of one of this nation's
3 finest historians, Mr. John Hope Franklin, who helped reshape America's racial identity and
4 profoundly influenced thinking about racial barriers in America; and
- 5 WHEREAS, born in 1915, Mr. Franklin was one of the few historians to achieve acclaim as
6 both a scholar and moral figure; and
- 7 WHEREAS, at the age of 11, Mr. Franklin attended a speaking engagement held by the great
8 civil rights leader, W.E.B. Du Bois, a man who would inspire young Franklin to greatness
9 and whom he would later befriend; and
- 10 WHEREAS, his 1947 book, *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans*, was
11 a comprehensive survey that sold over 3 million copies and permanently altered the ways in
12 which the American narrative was studied; and
- 13 WHEREAS, responsible for breaking down racial barriers on many levels, Mr. Franklin's
14 research was instrumental in the landmark case of *Brown v. Board of Education*; and
- 15 WHEREAS, he was a participant in the 1965 march from Selma to Montgomery with Dr.
16 Martin Luther King, Jr.; and
- 17 WHEREAS, he was the first black professor to hold an endowed chair at Duke University
18 and to present a paper at the segregated Southern Historical Association, and he was awarded
19 the nation's highest civilian honor, the Medal of Freedom, by President Bill Clinton in 1995;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, one of the most important historians of this century, Mr. Franklin's legacy and
22 influence will live on for generations to come, and he will long be remembered as an
23 educator, a historian, and a pioneer.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
25 the members of this body hereby join in honoring the life and memory of Mr. John Hope
26 Franklin and recognizing the incredible influence he has had upon this nation.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
28 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Mr. John Hope
29 Franklin.